

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/740,053

Examiner

Christopher R. Magee

Applicant(s)

SHIRAKI ET AL.

Art Unit

2653

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/10/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6,10,11 and 13-16 (renumbered 1-12, respectively).
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 5/17/2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.
2. The reply filed 11/10/2004 was applied to the following effect: All relevant objections and rejections are withdrawn as being satisfied. Claim 12 has been cancelled.

Reasons for Allowance

3. Claims 1-6, 10, 11, and 13-16 are allowed (renumbered as claims 1-12, respectively).

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

This application is for an INTEGRATED THIN FILM HEAD WITH MAGNETO-RESISTIVE SENSOR PREVENTING SHORT CIRCUIT BETWEEN THIN FILMS.

- **Claims 1 and 4** specify an integrated thin film head, which requires:

"a thickness of a part of the lead layer in contact with upper lead layer is less than a thickness (a) of a part of the lead layer not in contact with the upper lead layer, and thickness (c) < (thickness (a) + thickness (b)), where thickness (c) is the total thickness of the lead layer and the upper lead layer where the position of the upper lead layer is in contact with the lead layer, and thickness (b) is the thickness of a portion of the upper lead layer not in contact with the lead layer."

The Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) discloses $\text{thickness (c)} = (\text{thickness (a)} + \text{thickness (b)})$, where thickness (c) is the total thickness of the lead layer and the upper lead layer where the position of the upper lead layer is in contact with the lead layer, and thickness (b) is the thickness of a portion of the upper lead layer not in contact with the lead layer. The AAPA does not teach or suggest the applicant's invention as claimed.

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Shouji et al. (US 5,907,459) show the lower shield (48) being covered with the flat surface of the MR sensor layer (62) and lead layer (58) in a size smaller than the flat surface shape in the depth direction (col. 4, lines 10-26; Fig. 1).

Seagle (US 5,764,446) discloses a protective undercoat layer (320) formed on the substrate (100) comprising an insulative dielectric material such as alumina (col. 6, lines 33-36).

Therefore, these features, in combination with other features of claim 1 and 4, are not anticipated by, nor made obvious over, the closest prior art of record of the AAPA, Shouji '459 and/or Seagle '446.

- **Claim 13** specifies an integrated thin film head, which requires:

"wherein thickness (c) < (thickness (a) + thickness (b)), where thickness (a) is the thickness of the first part, thickness (b) is the thickness of a portion of the upper lead layer not in contact with the lead layer, and thickness (c) is the combined thickness of said portion of the upper lead layer overlapping said second part of said lead layer and said second part."

The Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) discloses $\text{thickness (c)} = (\text{thickness (a)} + \text{thickness (b)})$, where thickness (c) is the total thickness of the lead layer and the upper lead layer where the position of the upper lead layer is in contact with the lead layer, and thickness (b) is the thickness of a portion of the upper lead layer not in contact with the lead layer. The AAPA does not teach or suggest the applicant's invention as claimed.

Shouji et al. (US 5,907,459) show the lower shield (48) being covered with the flat surface of the MR sensor layer (62) and lead layer (58) in a size smaller than the flat surface shape in the depth direction (col. 4, lines 10-26; Fig. 1).

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Seagle (US 5,764,446) discloses a protective undercoat layer (320) formed on the substrate (100) comprising an insulative dielectric material such as alumina (col. 6, lines 33-36).

Therefore, these features, in combination with other features of claim 13, are not anticipated by, nor made obvious over, the closest prior art of record of the AAPA, Shouji '459 and/or Seagle '446.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher R. Magee whose telephone number is (703) 605-4256. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8: 00 am-5: 30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Korzuch can be reached on (703) 305-6137. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

December 6, 2004



Christopher R. Magee
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2653

A. J. HEINZ
PRIMARY EXAMINER
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